PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No country-wide survey has been conducted to assess the population of peacocks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) While the peacock is distributed almost throughout the country, it is more common and abundant in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(d) Although no specific action plan has been drawn up to protect the peacock, it is afforded full protection from hunting and commercial exploitation under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It is also our National bird.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry. The peacock and its habitat is also protected in a number of sanctuaries in the country. Sanctuaries are declared and managed by the States and Union Territories under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Decision taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Board of Governors

288. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had met on the 6th, 7th November, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of the decisions arrived at in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in its meeting held on 8th November, 1996 approved among other things amendment to rules 19(9) & 16 and reemployment of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan retiring on superannuation on or after 30th November, of the year upto 31st March next year, decentralisation of disbursement of CPF/GPF advances and Part-final withdrawals at regional level, cadre review of Group 'D' employees, and amendment of recruitment rules for Education Officers.

Non-Price recommendations in respect of differents Crops

289. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has also been making non-price recommendations, apart from the price recommendations in respect of different crops;

(b) if so, details of the non-price recommendations in respect of major agricultural and plantation crops, and the objectives thereof, during the last five years;

(c) the specific action taken by the Government on various non-price recommendations of the Committee, and the results thereof; and

(d) in case no action has been taken on some of the non-price recommendations, or if some of the recommendations have not been accepted, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The non-price recommendatons are made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its reports on price policy for various crops, in order to ensure effective implementation of price recommendations as well as better price realisation by the farmers. The non-price recommendations suggestive in nature have been referred to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Divisions for taking appropriate action. These

recommendations have been implemented in varying degrees depending on their feasibilities and have been taken into account while formulating the programmes for implementing the price policy as also in deciding the developmental activities for crop production.

Diversion of Funds Meant for Tiger Conservation

290. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report according to which a UK-based organisation 'The Tiger Trust' has accused the Indian branch of 'world wide fund for nature', for diverting millions of pounds meant for tiger conservation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government are aware that tigers are in peril due to unchecked poaching and mining;

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to save the tigers; and

(e) the population of tiger in the country during the years 1994, 1995 and so far in 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since the World Wide Fund for Nature-India is an independant non-governmental organisation, the Government of India do not have any information regarding their inflow or outflow of funds.

(c) No, Sir, However, habitat fragmentation and of illegal trade of tiger parts from skin to bone trade is posing renewed threat to tiger population.

(d) The steps taken by the Government are given in the statement enclosed. *(see* below)

(e) The All India Tiger Census is carried out once in four years. The estimated population of tigers, according to 1993 All India Census, was 3750.

Statement

Information regarding steps taken by Govt. to save tigers

(i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country;

(ii) J.J. Dutta Committee, which was constiuted on the advice of department related Parliamentary Committee for this Ministry, has also enquired into the issue of tiger conservation in project Tiger areas, and their recommendations are being acted upon within the constraints of budget and infrastructure.

(iii) the State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;

(iv) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;

(v) Inter-departmental coordination through the National Coordination Committee under the Ministry is showing positive results in the detection of more cases of poaching and illegal trade;

(vi) Funds under Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme are released to the State Governments for strengthening the protection network and improvement of tiger habitat;

(vii) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(viii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb